



U.S. Department of Justice
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NEWS RELEASE

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FOUR FROM PAKISTAN CONVICTED IN MARRIAGE FRAUD CASE

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced today that **Shabber Ali, 24, Tariq Mahmood, 34, Zaheer Ul Islam, 30, and Ahmed Bilal Aslam, 37,** all residing in the Kansas City area and citizens of Pakistan were found guilty on April 14, 2004, following a five day jury trial. Ali and Mahmood were convicted of one count of conspiracy to arrange fraudulent marriages. Islam and Aslam were convicted of one count of marrying for the purpose of evading immigration laws.

Melgren said that according to trial testimony, from April 26, 2001, through February 8, 2003, Ali and Mahmood conspired together, and with others, to arrange sham marriages between Pakistani citizens and citizens of the United States in order for the Pakistani citizen to evade a provision of the United States immigration laws. According to testimony, United States citizen females were recruited to marry Pakistani citizen males who were present in the United States and periodic payments were made to the United States citizen females involved in the sham marriages.

Ali and Mahmood each face a maximum of five years in federal prison, without parole, for conspiracy. Islam and Aslam each face a maximum of five years in federal prison, without parole, for marriage fraud. Sentencing is set for July 12, 2004, at 1:30 p.m.

Co-defendant **Crystal Porter Jamil, 28,** Kansas City, Kansas, entered a guilty plea on September 15, 2003, to one count of conspiracy to arrange sham marriages. Jamil faces a maximum of five years in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for May 3, 2004, at 1:30 p.m.

Co-defendant **Faiz Rasool, 28,** residing in the Kansas City area and a citizen of Pakistan, is charged with one count of marriage fraud. If convicted, Rasool faces a maximum of five years in federal prison without parole. No trial date is currently set.

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Co-defendants **Ghazali Mahmood Ansir**, 45, Pakistan, and **Munawar Hussain**, 38, Pakistan, are each charged with one count of marriage fraud. If convicted, each face a maximum of five years in federal prison without parole. Neither has been found and no trial date is currently set.

Co-defendant **Mohammad Nawaz**, 48, residing in the Kansas City area, citizen of Pakistan, entered a guilty plea on January 26, 2004, to one count of making a false statement to the Immigration and Nationalization Service, currently known as U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Nawaz faces a maximum of five years in federal prison without parole. Sentencing is set for April 19, 2004, at 1:30 p.m.

Charges against **Khalid Mehmood Choudhry**, 55, **Muhammad Waheed**, 36, and **Habib-Ur Rehman**, 49, all from the Kansas City area and citizens of Pakistan, have been dismissed without prejudice.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the FBI Task Force, with investigators from the Bureau of Immigration and Custom Enforcement, and the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Robert S. Streepy and Mike Christensen in this prosecution. Melgren also commended the assistance provided by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.